

To: Way, Steven[way.steven@epa.gov]; Dhieux, Joyel[Dhieux.Joyel@epa.gov]; Schmidt, Andrew[Schmidt.Andrew@epa.gov]; Fagen, Elizabeth[Fagen.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Bowen, Ian[Bowen.Ian@epa.gov]; Wall, Dan[wall.dan@epa.gov]
Cc: Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]; Brent Lewis (Brent_Lewis@blm.gov)[Brent_Lewis@blm.gov]; Wharton, Steve[Wharton.Steve@epa.gov]
From: Schmittdiel, Paula
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 11:31:13 PM
Subject: FW: your question

FYI – In response to Joyel's question to me earlier today regarding uranium mining in the UA watershed.

Paula Schmittdiel

Remedial Project Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1595 Wynkoop St.

Denver, CO 80202

Office: 303-312-6861

Fax: 303-312-7151

Cell: 720-951-0795

From: Paschke, Suzanne [mailto:spaschke@usgs.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Schmittdiel, Paula
Cc: Katie Walton-Day; Schmidt, Andrew; Timothy Raines
Subject: your question

Hi Paula,

In response to your question regarding uranium, Geoff Plumlee, a USGS research geochemist, indicated that "there are uranium-rich veins in the Lake City area, and our Mineral Resources Data System shows a couple of mine sites within a mile or two from the Gold King for which uranium is listed as a commodity. So, it is plausible that there may be some uranium in the waters. Unfortunately, I so far have not found any drainage chemistry from USGS Animas AML work that includes uranium."

We are in the process of pulling existing water-quality data from the NWIS database for the Silverton sites, and will let you know if there are available uranium concentration data. Likely not.

Samples we are collecting now in support of the Gold King mine spill are being analyzed by ICP-MS, which includes uranium.

Thanks for your call today - hang in there,

Suzanne

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Suzanne S. Paschke, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Hydrologic Studies

USGS Colorado Water Science Center

Denver Federal Center MS 415

P.O. Box 25046

Denver, CO 80225

phone 303-236-6904

cell 303-909-2982

spaschke@usgs.gov